

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 /113 W
----- 020044

R 251215Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1038

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1328

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG QA XF IR FR

SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR ON MID EAST, ENERGY, LEBANON VISITS TO
FRANCE AND IRAN, GULF AFFAIRS, ETC.

1. SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR HAS URGED US TO CONTINUE PRESENT COURSE
TOWARD MID EAST SETTLEMENT; DESCRIBED HIS RECENT VISITS TO FRANCE
AND IRAN; DISCUSSED GULF REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND ENERGY POLICY. END
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SUMMARY.

2. ON NOV 25, I CALLED ON AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI. IT WAS MY FIRST MEETING WITH KHALIFA SINCE MY RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE IN LATE OCTOBER AND HIS RETURN IN MID-NOV FROM VISITS TO FRANCE AND IRAN. WE HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION WHICH INCLUDED SUBJECTS OUTLINED BELOW.

3. MID EAST. AMIR PURSUED HIS STANDARD THEME THAT EGYPT UNDER SADAT IS KEY TO MID EAST SETTLEMENT, AND GOE REQUIRE FULL SUPPORT OF US AND ALL ARABS. HE CLAIMED HE HAD PUT HIS MONEY WHERE HIS MOUTH IS BY FINALIZING \$100 MILLION LOAN TO GOE (DOHA 1117) DURING VISIT OF V.P. MUBARAK HERE LAST WEEK. KHALIFA SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED BY SUCCESS OF SADAT VISIT IN US AND THAT HE GENERALLY AGREED WITH US COURSE IN WORKING FOR MID EAST SETTLEMENT. KHALIFA EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THAT DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND ELECTIONS MIGHT SLOW US EFFORTS DOWN, BUT HE ASSERTED WE MUST MAINTAIN SOME MOMENTUM EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T GO FLAT OUT. IN THIS CONTEXT, AMIR STATED CONVICTION THAT ESSENTIAL NEXT STEP WAS FURTHER, HOWEVER SMALL, DISENGAGEMENT IN GOLAN, AND THAT SYRIANS, DESPITE THEIR BLUSTER, WOULD SETTLE FOR THIS ONCE WE DREW THEM INTO A NEGOTIATING SITUATION. HE REITERATED THAT ALL THE ARABS ACKNOWLEDGE CENTRALITY OF EGYPT TO THE SUCCESS OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND THAT DISASTER WOULD FOLLOW IF EGYPTIANS ABANDONED CAUSE AND JUST TOOK CARE OF THEMSELVES. KHALIFA CLAIMED THAT HE HAD LECTURED PLO'S FAHOUM RECENTLY ON NECESSITY OF CEASING SLANGING MATCH AGAINST SADAT AND EGYPTIAN POLICY. I TOLD KHALIFA THAT IT WAS DISAPPOINTING THAT MODERATE ARABS HAD NOT BEEN AS VOCIFEROUS IN THEIR SUPPORT OF SADAT AS RADICALS HAD BEEN IN CRITICIZING HIM, AND IT APPEARED TO ME THAT GOQ TOO HAD BEEN PLAYING IT VERY COOL. AMIR CLAIMED THAT HE HAD PUBLICLY GIVEN HIS FULL SUPPORT TO SADAT AS RECENTLY AS LAST WEEK DURING MUBARAK VISIT. I SAID MUBARAK'S COMMENTS ON AMIR'S POSITION INDICATED SOMETHING MUCH LESS THAN A RINGING ENDORSEMENT (DOHA 1281 AND 1295). AMIR THEN BACKPEDDLED, EXPLAINING THAT QATAR WAS SMALL COUNTRY THAT HAD TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT TAKING PUBLIC SIDES IN ARAB DISPUTES.(&

4. LEBANON. AMIR CLAIMED THAT HE HAD URGED FRENCH TO SEND MISSION TO LEBANON (SEE BELOW). HE ASKED FOR US VIEWS AND EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER CONTINUING STRIFE, WHICH HE SAID HAD POTENTIAL OF SPILLING OUTSIDE OF LEBANON. I REPLIED US HAS REPEATEDLY STATED ITS CONCERN, AND ITS SUPPORT FOR INTEGRITY OF LEBANESE STATE. AMIR SAID HE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD HEARD SOVIETS HAD BEEN AIDING LEFTIST ELEMENTS WITH ARMS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE AND THAT US WEAPONS TOO WERE FLOWING INTO COUNTRY. I ANSWERED I HAD NO INFORMATION ON SOVIET INTERVENTION, AND, AS REGARDED US ARMS, IT WAS OUR POLICY TO PREVENT BY ALL MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL ARMS SHIPMENTS FROM US SOURCES TO ANY OF WARRING FACTIONS; HOWEVER, US ARMS WIDELY AVAILABLE ON WORLD BLACK MARKET AND THIS APPARENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR THEIR PRESENCE. AMIR ASSURED THAT GOQ WOULD NEVER PROVIDE ARMS AID IN SUCH A SITUATION. RE POSSIBLE OUTSIDE

INTERVENTION, AMIR ASSERTED THAT HE WAS SURE SYRIANS HAD NO SUCH INTENTIONS.

5. VISIT TO FRANCE. ACCORDING TO AMIR, IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH HE HAD EMPHASIZED BASIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPE AND US ON ONE SIDE AND ARAB WORLD ON THE OTHER; HENCE, ROAD OPEN FOR COOPERATION THAT WOULD BRING PROSPERITY TO ALL PARTIES. HE SAID HE FOUND, NOT SURPRISINGLY, CLOSE IDENTITY OF VIEWS WITH FRENCH ON MID EAST SITUATION. AMIR CLAIMED THAT HE HAD URGED GOF TO USE ITS SPECIAL INFLUENCE TO HELP RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS, AND HE BELIEVED HE AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRE-SENT COUVE DE MURVILLE MISSION IN BEIRUT. ACCORDING KHALIFA, THERE WERE NO RPT NO FORMAL CONVERSATIONS IN PARIS ON ARMS PURCHASES, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE LATER DISCUSSIONS ON EQUIPMENT FOR INTERNAL SECURITY USES ONLY. AMIR REPEATED HIS USUAL LINE THAT GOQ HAS NO INTEREST IN SOPHISTICATED MILITARY HARDWARE SINCE QATAR IS TOO SMALL TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ANY OUTSIDE AGGRESSOR NO MATTER HOW MUCH HARDWARE IT MIGHT ACQUIRE.

6. VISIT TO IRAN. AMIR DESCRIBED VISIT AS PART OF GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS AMONG GULF STATES. HE SAID TRIP ENHANCED ALREADY CORDIAL TIES BETWEEN DOHA AND TEHRAN AND ACCOMPLISHED PURPOSE OF ASSURING THAT THERE IS NO ANTI-IRAN SYNDROME HERE. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, AMIR SAID SHAH INITIATED CONVERSATION ON POSSIBILITY GULF SUMMIT AND REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, BUT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY GENERAL. ACCORDING KHALIFA, HE TOLD SHAH THAT BIG POWERS IN GULF

,
IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, WOULD FIRST HAVE TO AGREE ON FRAMEWORK FOR SUMMIT AND POSSIBLE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, AND THEN CONSULT WITH SMALLER STATES IN AREA ON THESE SUBJECTS BEFORE ANY BROADER TALKS COULD BE CONTEMPLATED. AMIR OBSERVED IT APPEARED THAT SHAH'S PRIMARY INTEREST WAS IN "FREE NAVIGATION" IN AREA, AND KHALIFA HAD RESPONDED THIS IS INTERNATIONAL AND NOT LOCAL GULF PROBLEM. ACCORDING AMIR, CONFIDENTIAL

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SHAH PUT PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SECURITY OF HORMUZ STRAITS AND SAID THIS WAS REASON FOR PRESENCE OF IRANIAN TROOPS IN OMAN TO ASSIST AGAINST DHOFAR REBELS.

7. GULF AFFAIRS. AMIR SAID HE EXPECTED TO VISIT UAE AND OMAN "SOMETIME WITHIN NEXT THREE WEEKS", AND INDICATED VISIT WOULD BE LATER RATHER THAN SOONER. HE NOTED THAT UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAYDI WAS WAITING IN OUTER OFFICE TO SEE HIM, AND THAT HE EXPECTED SUWAYDI TO BRIEF HIM ON RECENT VISIT OF PRINCE FAHD TO UAE. ACCORDING KHALIFA ,
SUWAYDI SHOULD HAVE SOME NEWS ON RECENT SAUDI TALKS WITH PDRY RE DHOFAR REBELLION. ON BAHRAIN/QATAR DISPUTE ABOUT HAWAR ISLAND, AMIR ACKNOWLEDGED THIS COULD BE PROBLEM; ALTHOUGH MINOR, IT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH MOMENTUM TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES. HE SAID MATTER WAS IN HANDS OF SAUDIS AND THAT

ALTHOUGH GOQ'S CLAIM UNASSAILABLE, HE WILLING TO HAVE MATTER
ARBITRATED IN ANY FORUM.

8. ENERGY. ACCORDING KHALIFA, HE HAD DISCUSSED ENERGY PROBLEM AT
SOME LENGTH WITH BOTH FRENCH AND IRANIANS IN SIMILAR TERMS. HE
BLAMED LONG EXPLOITATION OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES BY OIL COMPANIES FOR
DRAMATIC OIL PRICE RISE DURING PAST TWO YEARS. HE ASSERTED THAT THIS
ONLY WAY PRODUCERS COULD GET EVEN, BUT NOW PRICES SHOULD LEVEL OFF.
HE CLAIMED QATAG WAS NOT AMONG PRICE MAXIMIZERS. AMIR STRESSED HIS
FIRM BELIEF IN INTERDEPENDENCE, AND CONFIDENCE THAT CIEC WOULD PRO-
DUCE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM TO ASSURE PROSPERITY FOR CON-
SUMERS, PRODUCERS, DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. I RESPONDED
THAT I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THIS SINCE, AS AMIR WELL KNEW, USG FIRMLY
COMMITTED TO FURTHERING WORLD ECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM AND JUST AS
FIRMLY OPPOSED TO FURTHER INCREASES IN OIL PRICES AS DANGEROUS
DESTABLIZING ELEMENT.
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